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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 005163

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, G/TIP, DRL/CRA

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS WITH FIRST  
DEPUTY PM SHEIKH NAWAF AL-SABAH

Classified By: AMBASSADOR RICHARD H. JONES, REASON 1.4(B)

1. (C) As one of a series of meetings with senior GOK officials prior to his departure for temporary duty in Iraq, Ambassador met with First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah November 10. The Ambassador congratulated Sheikh Nawaf on being officially named First Deputy Prime Minister recently, thanked him for his Ministry's strong contributions to protecting Kuwait's security and combating terrorism, and sought his Ministry's assistance on various pending human rights and TIP issues. (Note: Exploitation of domestic servants is the main TIP concern in Kuwait; domestic servants fall under the MOI's purview. End Note).

2. (C) The Ambassador provided Sheikh Nawaf with copies of the 2002 Human Rights Report and 2003 TIP Report, as well as a copy in Arabic of the recommendations from the international sex trafficking conference held in Washington in February. Sheikh Nawaf promised his Ministry would study the reports. The Ambassador also gave Sheikh Nawaf a copy of a diplomatic note post submitted in September containing a list of (as yet unanswered) questions for his Ministry on the human rights and TIP situation in Kuwait, particularly regarding the treatment of domestic servants. Sheikh Nawaf agreed to provide post with a key point of contact within his Ministry to allow us to follow up on these issues and to facilitate accurate preparation of our annual HR and TIP reports. Sheikh Nawaf stressed that Kuwait respects the rights of all human beings and that it is committed to improving the overall human rights and TIP situation in the country. Post will follow up with the Ministry to obtain comprehensive answers to our pending human rights and TIP questions. We will also follow up on reported efforts to tighten controls on local employment agencies that deal with domestic servants.

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